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DOCUMENT SERIES

FUPI'S ANSWER TO RIC

PUBLISHED BY THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS

1964

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No. 1235

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F U P I ' S A N S W E R T O R I C

Published by the International Union of Students



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INTRODUCTION

The Executive Committee of the Federation of University Students for the Independence of Puerto Rico (FUPI), after making an extensive study of the so-called "Report on Puerto Rico" which was submitted to the participants in the Xth ISC held in Quebec by the committee of the RIC-ISC, and later published by COSEC as a brochure, finds itself bound to issue a reply and an evaluation of the mentioned report.

Our organisation rejected the so-called RIC "Report" on discovering its pro-colonialist and anti-FUPI content. The events which then followed at the Xth ISC as a result of the refusal on the part of the leading group in the ISC-COSEC to recognise the credentials of FUPI as a representative organisation of the Puerto Rican students led to the walk-out of 27 organisations from that conference. Our organisation has officially made known at all international and national events its rejection of the so-called RIC Report and the special status accorded to FUPI by the majority leading group at the ISC in the absence of FUPI and 27 national student unions. It has also made publicly known FUPI's intention of participating in the XIth ISC-COSEC and of demanding that COSEC send travel grants to cover the journey of the FUPI delegation to that meeting. FUPI will go to the XIth ISC-COSEC to demand recognition of its status as a representative organisation of the Puerto Rican students. The IXth ISC, the VIth and VIIth IUS Congresses, the Latin American student Congresses and the Latin American Youth Congresses have recognised FUPI as the representative organisation of the Puerto Rican students.

FUPI was elected to the Secretariat of the IUS at the VIth Congress held in Baghdad, re-elected to the IUS Secretariat at the VIIth IUS Congress held in Leningrad, elected to the Presidium of the World Youth and Students Forum held in Moscow in August 1961 and elected to the International Preparatory Committee for the IIIrd Latin American Youth Congress. This is all clear proof of the international recognition accorded to FUPI as a legitimate representative organisation. Any attempt to deny recognition of its representativity amounts to swimming against the current.

For some time discussion took place within our organisation as to whether it was worth answering the so-called RIC-ISC "Report" on Puerto Rico or not. After considering all the pros and cons, the Executive Committee of FUPI decided to issue a brief reply to the RIC-ISC report, to prepare a brochure for international distribution on the life and activities of FUPI and a third brochure on the colonial state of Puerto Rico.

The first brochure was published by the International Union of Students at our request under the title of "FUPI in Action". This brochure was published in English, French and Spanish. This second brochure is in reply to the so-called RIC-ISC report on which we shall comment further on.

The third brochure will be published on the occasion of September 23rd, "International Day of Solidarity with the Struggle of the Students and People of Puerto Rico for their National Independence. It is a concise and relatively detailed review of the struggle of the Puerto Rican people for their national independence and against US colonial domination and its main manifestations. This brochure will be published in French, English and Spanish and will very soon be available to the international student and youth movement.

This brochure is a brief one. We would have liked to answer all the distortions, slanders and lies of the so-called ISC-RIC "Report" on Puerto Rico, page by page and point by point. We decided not to do so since this would then imply filling pages and pages with facts, all of which would have swollen the size of this brochure and perhaps even made it tendentious for the reader.

We have limited ourselves in this brochure to the task of unmasking the anti-FUPI activities of Messrs. Andreas Kohlschutter and Fernando Andrade and their ten day stay as tourists in our country, listing the main "accidental" omissions in the so-called ISC-RIC "report" and answering the principal distortions of fact, the slanders and lies about FUPI and Puerto Rican life contained therein.

The Executive Committee of FUPI and its militant members seriously doubt whether the report submitted by RIC to the Xth ISC was prepared by Messrs. Kohlschutter and Andrade. We are of the opinion that everything seems to indicate that this so-called "report" was prepared in some office in the USA or Puerto Rico.

We have read brochures published by the State Department on Puerto Rico with a view to combatting the struggle of our people and to confusing honest people unacquainted with our colonial situation. The content, the claims, the language, etc. are practically identical. It is for this reason that we seriously doubt that the so-called "report" of the ISC-RIC was prepared by Messrs. Kohl-schutter and Andrade. We might be wrong. History will decide one way or the other. As long as there is no proof one way or the other, as long as the language, the assertions, the logic, etc. of the said "report" continue to be practically identical with those used by State Department propaganda and the colonial government of Puerto Rico in their campaign to defend their colonial domination over our country, we shall continue to have serious and sincere doubts of this nature.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF THE FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY STUDENTS
FOR THE INDEPENDENCE OF PUERTO RICO (FUPI)

"ACCIDENTAL" OMISSIONS

Messrs. Andreas Kohlschutter of Switzerland and Fernando Andrade of Guatemala visited Puerto Rico between the 2nd and 12th of November, 1960. The object of their trip was apparently as follows: "to observe and to comment on the elections (colonial elections) of November 1960"; "to study the ways and means of helping the students in their struggle for the establishment of a representative student council"; and lastly, to produce a "full report on education in Puerto Rico". That was the mandate of the IXth ISC to the RIC committee which visited Puerto Rico.

It is interesting to note that the IXth ISC did not mandate the RIC Committee to study "the ways and means of helping the students" in their struggle for the national independence of Puerto Rico, for the withdrawal of all US military and atomic bases, against compulsory military service in the US Army and for the release of patriots condemned to a total of 485 years imprisonment for the "crime" of struggling for the national independence of Puerto Rico".

It is only natural that the ISC did not include this last point in the mandate for the RIC delegation. After all, Resolution 148 on Puerto Rico was submitted by the delegation of the United States National Union of Students (USNSA) after the same USNSA requested the withdrawal of the draft resolution on Puerto Rico submitted by FUPI which requested the IXth ISC to condemn US colonial domination over Puerto Rico which dates back to 1898, and demanding that the US recognize the people of Puerto Rico to self-determination, free from any kind of foreign pressure or occupation.

Messrs. Andrade and Kohlschutter had to ask for a US visa at a US Embassy in order to visit Puerto Rico. On their arrival in Puerto Rico, their documents and luggage had to be examined at the offices of the US Immigration Service in Puerto Rico. During their stay in Puerto Rico, they saw the US flag flying over all public places in the country. They observed that 13% of our national territory is taken up by US military and atomic bases. They must have heard that Puerto Rican youth are obliged to serve in the US Army or suffer the penalty of five to ten years imprisonment.

sonment in US prisons and the loss of civil rights in time of peace or death in time of war. They knew that the Federal Bureau of Investigation at Washington (the FBI) and the Central Intelligence Agency of the United States (CIA) have offices and agents in Puerto Rico devoted to the persecution of people who struggle for the national independence of Puerto Rico. They knew that Albizu Campos, the spiritual leader of the national independence struggle of Puerto Rico, is in prison together with about a hundred other patriots for the sole "crime" of struggling for the national independence of Puerto Rico. They knew that all laws passed by the US Congress, in which Puerto Rico is not represented with the right to vote, are applied in Puerto Rico. They knew that Puerto Rico is a Spanish-speaking country subjected to US colonial domination since 1898. They learned of the struggles waged by the people of Puerto Rico in all forms, from mass political struggle to armed struggle, aimed at achieving national independence.

Whenever Kohlschutter or Andrade paid a bill in a hotel or in a tourist seashore resort, they did so with US currency for the simple reason that Puerto Rican currency does not exist. The postage stamps they stuck on their envelopes or cards were US postage stamps purchased at a United States Post Office, over which only the US flag flies. They were aware of the fact that US courts function in Puerto Rico, that 78% of all investments in the national economy of Puerto Rico are US investments and that Puerto Rico has no commercial freedom and that it is forced to trade with the USA, has to use ships of the US Merchant Marine and has to pay for consumer goods at prices 25% higher than those in Washington, Chicago, New York, Philadelphia etc, whereas the average salaries of our workers are one third of the US average.

Messrs. Kohlschutter and Andrade knew that under the so-called "Law for Economic Development", any capitalist investing in our country is allowed 12 to 17 years exemption from taxes, that the US imposes restrictive quotas on the production and refinement of our sugar, that in Puerto Rico, 14% of the labour force is fully unemployed and another 15% are unemployed for a period of 6 months every year; that a million Puerto Ricans have been forced by the economic misery prevalent in our countryside to emigrate to the farms of the US where they suffer economic discrimination and

exploitation. They were aware of the fact that 35% of the total population (850,000) lives in conditions of extreme poverty and on assistance provided by the colonial government with a view to anaesthetising their minds and thereby isolating them from the revolutionary struggle for independence.

They were also able to observe that the USA has set up in our country one of the biggest (considering the size of our country) networks of repression in the world. More than 50,000 men are stationed at the US military bases. If we count all the soldiers, police, FBI, CIA, Reserve Corps and secret police agents, we find that there are ten agents per square kilometre and one for every 23 inhabitants. All this and much more (for example, it is necessary to apply for permission to the Communications Authorities in Washington in order to operate a television or radio service in Puerto Rico) must have been observed by Messrs Kohlschutter and Andrade during their ten day stay in our country. But as the well known saying goes, "THERE'S NONE SO BLIND AS THEY THAT WON'T SEE".

We know that Messrs. Kohlschutter and Andrade did see and consider all the above-mentioned facts and that it all shows to what extent the colonial domination exercised by the US government over our country has gone. NEVERTHELESS, Messrs. ANDRADE AND KOHLSCHUTTER DO NOT MENTION ANY OF THIS IN THEIR REPORT TO THE Xth ISC. We doubt very much that this is due to a slip of the mind. We tend to think that this "slip of the mind" was premeditated, conscious and planned.

Messrs. Andrade and Kohlschutter knew that were they to include in their report all that which they had observed in Puerto Rico, it would fully confirm the declarations made by FUPI at the IXth ISC on the colonial state maintained in Puerto Rico by the USA.

Throughout the report, mention is made of the fact that the 'Congress of the US legislates over Puerto Rico' in this or that field and in parenthesis, comments that the US Government has similar powers over all the states of the union. This UPI and AP method of distorting facts can not meet with success in the international student community. In the first place, it is not a matter of a central government reserving powers to itself over its provinces. It is a question of a power which the government of one country exercises over another country. The assertions contained

in the so-called "report" of the RIC-ISC in connection with Puerto Rico are in the following vein: "The Portuguese Government legislates over Angola, Mozambique, etc. in this or that aspect", and then in parenthesis, there is the affirmation that similar rights are reserved by the Lisbon Government over the Portuguese provinces. This is ridiculous and constitutes an open defence of the Portuguese colonial regime. Similarly, the declarations inserted in parenthesis by the "authors" of the so-called "Report" on Puerto Rico are ridiculous and constitute an open defence of US colonial domination over Puerto Rico.

The "authors" do not mention the University Massacre of 1935, the massacre at Ponce on the 21st March 1937 where 20 Puerto Ricans were murdered and more than 200 injured for the sole crime of peacefully demonstrating for the independence of Puerto Rico and the release of imprisoned patriots. They do not mention the insurrection of October 1950 which was crushed by US planes, tanks and soldiers, nor the thousands of patriots imprisoned, nor the exchange of shots at Blair House in Washington when an attempt was made on the life of President Truman, nor the attempt on the lives of the US congressmen in 1954, nor the present determined political and non-electoral struggle of the masses for the national independence of our country.

The so-called RIC "Report" contains an omission, a distortion, a falsification or a lie in practically every line. We could quote examples: "Puerto Rico was under military occupation for approximately two years etc". The truth is that Puerto Rico was under the US military government for two years and for the last 66 years has been and continues to be under US military occupation.

The "report" talks about analysing the present day "constitutional relations of Puerto Rico with the United States", Messrs. authors, would it not be more honest, correct and truthful to speak of the present colonial relations with the USA instead of speaking of constitutional relations? Is it possible to speak of constitutional relations between Angola and Portugal? Between Mozambique and Portugal? Or between British Guiana and Britain? etc.

Why do you pass over the fact that Puerto Rico was once an autonomous country with a parliament, currency and a banking system of its own enjoying free trade with all countries and that Puerto

Ricans did not have to do their military service in the Spanish Army? Or that despite the fact that Puerto Rico had 16 representatives with a right to speech and vote in the Spanish Parliament, no law was applicable to Puerto Rico unless it were ratified by a majority vote in the Puerto Rican parliament when Puerto Rico in 1898 had not yet been invaded by the armed forces of the USA?

Is it not due to attempts to hide the undeniable fact that Puerto Rico, under the bombastic title of "Free Associate State" and the colonial occupation of US "democracy", enjoys fewer powers than the Puerto Rico of 1898 under the domination of feudal, monarchic and reactionary Spain?

The "authors" assert that "there has not been any clear and definitive expression on the part of the people of Puerto Rico on the question of independence although the results of the 1960 elections constituted an act of support for the social and economic policy of the administration in power and presumably a wish to accept the status of Free Associate State for the moment. Nevertheless, the people of Puerto Rico have as yet not expressed their sovereign wish as concerns their ultimate destiny."

NO! Messrs. Andrade and Kohlschutter. Let us not play with words as UPI, AP and the CIA do. Let us be objective and keep to the facts. It is not a question of it being "clear". It is a case of there not having ever been any expression against independence. What there has been and continues to be is a clear opposition to the colonial state maintained by the USA over our country since 1898.

The results of the 1960 elections only go to show to what extent US political, economic and military control over Puerto Rico has gone and they do not constitute, as you allege, either an expression of support or "the presumable wish to accept the status of Free Associate State". In the first place, because the so-called status of "Free Associate State" simply does not exist. What does exist is a colonial status imposed by the economic, military and political power of the USA over the small Latin American nation of Puerto Rico.

The "authors" themselves are obliged to admit in the language of the UPI, AP and the CIA that "as yet" the Puerto Rican people have not expressed their sovereign wish as concerns their ultimate destiny. This is very true in part. The people have never

expressed their sovereign wish because they have simply never been sovereign since they find themselves under the colonial domination of the USA. The people have expressed their wish as concerns their ultimate destiny. The people of Puerto Rico have waged a struggle for independence since 1868 as much against Spain as against the USA. Hence the Massacre of Students in 1935, the Ponce Massacre in 1937, the Armed Insurrection of October 1950, etc. All this is more than conclusive proof of the people's expression of their views on their ultimate destiny.

The interesting thing is that the authors speak of a "Free Associate State", of the "exercise of self-determination", of "the majority of the people", etc. when they themselves are compelled to admit that there has never been a sovereign expression of opinion. Is this not a great contradiction? If there has never been a sovereign expression of opinion, this must imply that whatever does exist is not the result of the sovereign expression of the people, hence it must have been imposed. Is this not so?

If it is so, why not admit it openly? Why do they contradict themselves on every page? Why do they speak of the "majority of the people", "free and democratic elections", "self-determination" etc. in parts and yet in other parts they speak in a vague way and in the language of UPI, AP and the CIA about the fact that "as yet there has not been any definite expression", etc?

Gentlemen, why don't you tell the truth? Why do you not admit that Puerto Rico is a colony of the United States of America, that the USA exercises unlimited power and economic, political and military control over the island, that the elections are controlled by an enormous, bureaucratic, military and economic set-up maintained by the USA in the country, that the FBI, CIA, Department of Justice and the Un-American Activities Committee of the House of Representatives of the USA carry out their witch-hunts against the pro-independence, anti-imperialist organisations of Puerto Rico. That the Communist Party and the Nationalist Party of Puerto Rico are proscribed by law, that the Movement for Independence of Puerto Rico, United Patriotic Action, the Nationalist Party, and many other civil and even religious organisations struggling for the national independence of Puerto Rico and even the Federation of University Students for the Independence of Puerto Rico (FUPI) are considered to be subversive by the US

Why did they not inform the national student unions of the world who participated in the Xth ISC that the Federation of University Students for the Independence of Puerto Rico (FUPI), the credentials of which had been recognised by the IXth ISC, by the VIth IUS Congress, by the Congresses of Latin American Students and the Congresses of Latin American Youth, is considered to be subversive organisation by the colonial repressive bodies of Puerto Rico and the Department of Justice of the USA? Why did they not inform the students of the world that the Committee for Un-American Activities of the US House of Representatives has the patriotic and anti-imperialist organisations of Puerto Rico, among them FUPI, listed as un-American and subversive organisations and that members of FUPI have been summoned by that fascist committee to appear at public hearings?

Messrs. Kohlschutter and Andrade did not mention any of the above points in their "Report". Can this be considered as a mere coincidence? An accidental omission? A slip of the mind? Lack of a mandate? Only a naive person could imagine such a thing. The members of FUPI, persecuted by the FBI, the CIA, the colonial police and the Un-American Activities Committee, tempered in the arduous daily struggle of our country for national independence, cannot but believe that these omissions were premeditated.

The "authors" of the so-called "report" only had two short meetings with members of FUPI during their ten day stay in Puerto Rico. FUPI only heard of the arrival of these two members of RIC through the colonialist press. Photographs were even published of the members of RIC on the beaches of Puerto Rican resorts. We know for sure that when a delegation from our Executive Committee went to the hotel where they were staying, one of the staff informed us that "they were spending the day in Mar Chiquita" (a resort on the north coast of Puerto Rico). We also know that they stayed at Hotel Dorado (a Rockefeller property and the most expensive hotel in the Caribbean area), at the Caribbean Hilton and others.

It is for this reason that we find it strange, as anybody else would, that these "authors" could have "interviewed the most outstanding leaders of the different political parties as well as government spokesmen of the Free Associate State, high authorities of the Catholic Church, well-known educational figures, different

student groups, and in fact different sectors of public opinion. Many political party meetings were also attended." To do all this in addition to touring the beaches of Puerto Rico in the short time of ten days is practically impossible. Only geniuses could have undertaken such a great task, to holiday and then obtain information for a "report". We know Messrs. Andrade and Kohlschutter and we sincerely believe that they are not geniuses.

It is worth noting that the "authors" speak of a "Free Associate State" and not of a colony, of "different student groups" and not of the representative Puerto Rican student organisation, FUPI, which was recognised as such by the IXth ISC itself, the latter having issued the mandate for the visit to Puerto Rico.

The authors have left out of their report any mention of their tours of the beaches and hotels of Puerto Rico, their interview with the colonial governor, Luis Muñoz Marin, and high functionaries of the colonial government, etc.

They also leave out the fact that they entered into discussion with a veteran of the US Army who at present receives a pension from the US Government, and requested him to set up a "non-party and broad organisation of students which would serve as a shock force against FUPI." They omit the fact that they met Aranfel Cordero, the President of the Catholic University Circle at that time, and urged him to attack FUPI through the CUC publications for having affiliated to the IUS. They in fact leave out all mention of their subversive, anti-FUPI and interventionist efforts during their stay in Puerto Rico.

FUPI has known of letters addressed by COSEC to non-representative and anti-FUPI organisations in which COSEC requests them to send them names and addresses to which they can post their publications. Why did they not request FUPI, an organisation recognised by the IXth ISC as the representative organisation of the Puerto Rican students to send those names and addresses? We are not acquainted with the reasons for this although the events which followed have confirmed our initial belief that the members of the RIC and COSEC had few honest intentions with regard to FUPI.

FUPI is a fighting organisation. We have many enemies: US imperialism and its agents. We have to say with due honesty and

clarity that the behaviour of the RIC Committee and the administrative functionaries towards FUPI is not very different from that of the agents of US imperialism and US imperialism itself. We hope that this attitude will change towards FUPI and the struggle for the independence of Puerto Rico which COSEC has maintained up till now.

We are of the opinion that COSEC must clearly demonstrate its alleged anti-colonialist policy in the case of Puerto Rico. To condemn colonialism as practised by France, Portugal and Holland, etc. and to defend it when it comes to US imperialism is in no way consistent with an anti-colonialist stand.

DISTORTIONS AND SLANDER

The authors of the "report" knew perfectly well that all education was imparted in English up to the forties and that the aim of this was to anglicise the country. They knew that it was as a result of a great student strike in the university lasting almost six months that the medium of education was switched to Spanish. There is no mention of this in the report despite the fact that they know perfectly well that as a result of the university strike in 1948, the Student Council was dissolved, hundreds of students were imprisoned for having lowered the US flag and raising the Puerto Rican one and thousands of students and professors expelled and interrogated by the colonial police. They were acquainted with all this or if they had been interested in these facts the "authors" of the "report" could have been informed about them.

They also know perfectly well that education is imparted in English in the private religious schools and that the text books used in the public schools are in English even though the teaching is in Spanish (the teaching of English is compulsory in all schools and universities of the country). The authors do not even analyse the reasons for the existence in Puerto Rico of such an absurd system. Can it not be by any chance that the USA wishes to anglicise our country and to destroy our national culture and language before assimilating us as they did in the case of Hawaii and Alaska? Gentlemen, do you not think that it would be as well to think about the causes, aims and effects of certain phenomena before writing about them?

You say that "Puerto Rico is a society which tends to be bi-cultural", and that "teachers face a delicate problem as to how to integrate 'both' cultures in the plans of study and methodology". Would it not be preferable to speak of the fact that a US and anti-Puerto Rican educational system is being imposed on the Puerto Rican people imparted in the Spanish language because the plan to anglicise the country has failed for the moment? Would it not be better to say that attempts are being made to destroy Puerto Rican culture by subtle means? Would it not be better to talk about the attempts at tearing the Puerto Ricans away from their national culture, language, customs and traditions and imposing on them US patterns?

It is enough to find out what kind of an education Puerto Ricans are receiving. Is it Puerto Rican or US? We are of the opinion that it is unnecessary to answer this question. The facts are too obvious to be distorted by linguistic subtleties and sophisms of the kind used by the UPI, AP and the CIA.

The authors refer to the Student Council. They say that since 1948, there has been no Student Council. They say that the Student Council has organised a series of round tables and conferences and invited Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos (who is in prison, a fact that the authors "omit") to lecture on the independence movement of the island, etc. The authors evade reality. Previously representatives had spoken of political parties which defend the status quo and the juridical annexation of Puerto Rico by the USA. The Rector did not forbid these lectures and permitted them in violation of the "essentially neutral and non-partisan nature of the institution".

It is worth pointing out the following. The authors believe that in a colonial country, the university can be "essentially neutral and non-partisan" and that if a leader of the independence movement takes the floor the "autonomy of the university is threatened." In other words, they are so absurd as to declare that in a colonial country the university is not only neutral and non-partisan but also autonomous! Please, Gentlemen!

The University was not closed for awhile, it was closed for a whole semester. Hundreds of students and professors were expelled. The police took over the university (this apparently is not a "violation" of the "autonomy of the University" in a colony, according to the authors). The students lowered the US flag and raised the Puerto Rican one. Fascist type regulations were imposed on the students. Why do they omit these well-known facts? Why do they not tell the truth? Perhaps they are afraid of the truth?

The authors say that "it is very significant that great stress has been made in favour of the Council being composed of members elected by the Faculty Council and not by a direct vote of the university population and that the university faculties should be equally represented without taking into account the number of students in each of them".

We would ask the authors who it is that insists on such a formula? Is it by any chance the Rector Benitez and the University

Administration? Why do they not say so clearly? Of course the fact that the University administration talks about such formulas is of great significance: it shows up their fear of the student masses. They know very well that in the bigger faculties, FUPI is very influential and that if a system of proportional representation is established, the members of FUPI (now proscribed by the university authorities) would be able to work legally within the grounds of the university itself and with a mandate from the overwhelming majority of the Puerto Rican students. They also know that FUPI is weak in the small faculties such as Biology, Pharmacy, Medicine, Odontology and others because of the class origin of the students in these minute faculties. On the other hand, they know that FUPI would obtain an immense majority in the faculties of Social Sciences (2,000 students), Commerce (some 3,000 students), Pedagogy (some 2,500 students), Law, Public Administration, Humanities (some 2,000 students), General Studies (some 3,000 students) and others.

FUPI has a membership of more than 7,300. Its influence is felt amongst the immense majority of the Puerto Rican students. There is not a single struggle for student rights which is not led and organised by FUPI. This is well known by the Rector Benitez, the colonial governor, the FBI, the CIA, the colonial police, the Un-American Activities Committee of the US House of Representatives and the USA Department of Justice, all of which describe us as being "subversive". Proof of this are the front-page editorials and attacks amounting to eight columns of the ultra-reactionary and pro-assimilation press.

Let all persecution by the FBI, CIA and the colonial police cease, and if we are allowed to work legally and openly within the university precincts and elections held for a Student Council, we shall be able to demonstrate that our real strength is much greater than the present 7,300 members.

The colonialists are well aware of this fact and it is for this reason that FUPI is attacked and slandered. It is for this reason that the representatives of the Peoples' Democratic Party (the colonial party at present in power in Puerto Rico) and the representatives of the former leadership of CUC (the University Catholic Centre) "considered that FUPI is in no way representative" and that the membership of FUPI is "barely 500 out of

22,000 students."

The fact that the colonialists declare that we are not representative is comprehensible and constitutes nothing but praise for us. When the colonialists speak badly of us and attempt to defame us, it is because our policy is anti-colonialist. The day the colonialists speak favourably of FUPI it will mean that there is something wrong in FUPI's policy. That would worry us very much, of course. We do not desire any praises from the colonialists. We are enemies of colonialism and the colonialists.

What we do not understand is how it is that the authors believed what the colonialists told them about FUPI. It is just like going to Angola, Mozambique, Guiana, etc. and believing the declarations of the colonialists about the anti-colonialist organisations of these countries.

Neither do we understand the reason why the authors did not inform us in Puerto Rico about the allegations of the colonialists concerning our membership.

Finally, we are surprised by the fact that the authors talk of "so many members" when they are referring to an anti-colonialist student organisation struggling under clandestine conditions in the university and semi-clandestine conditions in the country as such, of an organisation which is persecuted by the repressive bodies of the colonial administration and considered as being "subversive" by the interventionist government which upholds colonial power in the country.

To speak of other student organisations is in itself an act of impudence on the part of the authors. What organisation are you referring to? Are you referring to the so-called Liberal University Vanguard (VUL) organised by you and under your direction? We regret having to inform you, gentlemen, that your plan was a crushing failure. Why? Simply due to lack of student support.

Are you referring to the so-called FOU (Federation of University Organisations) which was so abruptly organised by the authors a few days before the Xth ISC when they realised that their "VUL" project had failed? We regret to inform you that the FOU (a phantom organised lately) was totally unknown to the student masses and had no other members than the three persons for whom somebody paid tickets and gave them an automobile during their stay in Quebec, Canada.

Are you referring to the FAU (University Anti-communist Front) recently organised by groups of exiled and traitorous Cuban students studying at our university and who operate with extensive funds for propaganda and with information services enabling them to quote Polish, Czech, Chinese, Russian and other newspapers? This insignificant group which was repudiated by the student mass during the campaign in defence of Prof. Lima's right to teach in the University of Puerto Rico despite his having visited Cuba and declared himself a Marxist-Leninist; this insignificant group which was given a good beating (by the students themselves) and who provided a ridiculous spectacle when they could not muster as much as 20 demonstrators (of whom 12 were diehard Cuban reactionaries and not students), this minute group of foreign traitors will be of little use to the authors. The students simply reject them and anyway they are not Puerto Ricans.

What is left to you, gentlemen? To continue "organising" or to recognise that which is already organised. Reality is very tough for you. We are well aware of this, but we tell you clearly, gentlemen, FUPI exists and will continue to exist. It is representative and will continue to be so. It is recognised nationally and internationally, whether you like it or not. And what is more, it is the only representative student organisation in Puerto Rico.

Precisely because we exist and are representative, not only of the students but also of something greater, we are representative of the determination of the students and the people to free their country. None of your distortions, omissions, slanders, nor the little groups organised by you to act as shock forces against us will be able to hold back the growing struggle of our organisation and our people for their national independence.

We struggle against US colonialism and imperialism and we shall never relax in our struggle. We can smash your little groups and your slanders as they arise. Continue to organise groups if you so wish, for we shall smash and expose them to the masses as fast as they come. We work together with and for the student mass. You work against and behind the backs of the student mass. In this merciless struggle between justice and freedom on the one hand and colonialism and treason on the other we are sure that we shall triumph. Puerto Rico will be independent and sovereign! FUPI will see to that!

FUPI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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